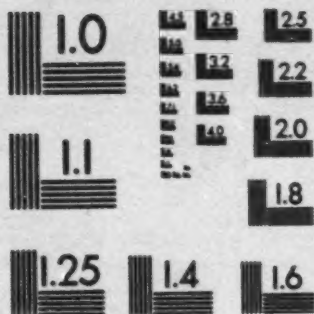


2



12



MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS
STANDARD REFERENCE MATERIAL 1010a
(ANSI and ISO TEST CHART No. 2)

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 232 181

CS 207 698

AUTHOR Giffard, C. Anthony
TITLE Inter Press Service: News from the Third World.
PUB DATE Aug 83
NOTE 39p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (66th, Corvallis, OR, August 6-9, 1983).
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Content Analysis; *Developing Nations; Information Dissemination; *Information Sources; *Media Research; *News Reporting
IDENTIFIERS *Inter Press Service

ABSTRACT

A content analysis was undertaken of the files for one month of the Rome-based Inter Press Service (IPS), an international news agency specializing in the news relating to the Third World. The data suggested that IPS is indeed providing a different kind of news service from that of the traditional news agencies. More than three-quarters of the news carried on the two IPS networks (English and Spanish) had its source in the developing nations, and dealt with topics and people relevant to them. The large and growing proportion of news IPS carried from its own correspondents contradicted suggestions that it merely engaged in distributing news from government-controlled national agencies. The themes covered in its reports reflected the agency's priorities. Its reports were relatively long and detailed, and focused on Third World concerns. There was little support for allegations that the service is biased against the West: far more of the reports were critical of shortcomings of the Third World. Although the proportion of national news agency material carried on the networks was not high, it was substantial, and in accord with the IPS philosophy of encouraging pluralism of voices in international news exchange. (HTH)

* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *

ED232181

International Communication Division

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

X This document has been reproduced as
received from the person or organization
originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve
reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this docu-
ment do not necessarily represent official NIE
position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS
MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

C. Anthony Giffard

INTER PRESS SERVICE: NEWS FROM
THE THIRD WORLD

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

C. Anthony Giffard
University of Washington

Presented to the International Communication
Division, Association for Education in
Journalism and Mass Communication, National
Convention, Corvallis, Ore., August, 1983.

International Communication Division

ABSTRACT

INTER PRESS SERVICE: NEWS FROM THE THIRD WORLD

C. Anthony Giffard

This study comprises a content analysis of the files of Inter Press Service, an international news agency specializing in news relating to the Third World.

Based in Rome, the agency has two core services, in English and Spanish. Selections from these services are translated into several other languages for distribution in different regions.

About 70 percent of the IPS file is produced by its own correspondents. The rest comprises news from national news agencies in developing countries that is carried unaltered on the IPS channels. The agency seeks to promote news flow between developing countries, and from the Third World to the industrialized north.

The study analyzes the IPS English and Spanish files for the month of October, 1982. Using an expanded version of the content analysis instrument developed for the International Association for Mass Communication Research, it seeks to determine the news sources, geography, topics, themes and actors featured in the services. It compares the IPS service with the files of major international news agencies to the Third World. It seeks also to determine whether IPS is living up to its stated intentions and, conversely, whether its news reports are biased against the West, as claimed by some critics.

The data suggest that IPS is indeed providing a different kind of news service to that of the traditional agencies. Its claim to be a new source of Third World news is well justified. More than three quarters of the the news carried on the two networks was sourced in the developing nations, and deals with topics and actors relevant to them. The large and growing proportion of news it carries from its own correspondents contradicts suggestions that it is merely engaged in distributing news from government-controlled national agencies.

The themes covered in its reports do indeed reflect the agency's priorities. Its reports are relatively long and detailed; they focus on Third World developmental concerns. There is little to support allegations that the service is biased against the West: far more of its reports are critical of shortcomings of the Third World.

Although the proportion of national news agency material carried on the networks is not high, it is substantial, and is in accord with the IPS philosophy of encouraging a pluralism of voices in international news exchange.

Inter Press Service is an international news agency that specializes in the gathering, processing and dissemination of news relating to the Third World. Its primary emphasis is on developing horizontal communications links and promoting news and information flow between the developing countries. In addition, the agency distributes news about the Third World to clients in the industrialized countries of the North.¹

IPS is the most recent of the international agencies. Founded in 1964 with the aim of providing an "information bridge" between Latin America and Europe, it has since expanded its operations to include parts of Africa, Asia the Middle East and North America. As of 1983, IPS had bureaus or correspondents in more than 60 countries (Table 1), and had distribution or news exchange agreements with some 30 Third World news agencies (Table 2). Bureaus in such developed countries as Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States are translating and adapting IPS material for use in local media. The agency is continuing to expand its coverage of the Third World, particularly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

IPS is registered in Italy as a non-profit co-operative organization. Its international operations are conducted through a wholly-owned subsidiary, IPS Third World, which is headquartered in Panama. Separate affiliates have been established in several Western European countries to distribute IPS materials. In the United States, IPS material is adapted and distributed by Interlink News Service in New York.

The agency's telecommunications network is centered in Rome. From there, satellite teleprinter channels fork out to regional centers, and branch into local bureaus. Surplus capacity in the network is used by national news agencies to exchange information, thus providing direct links and building information flows between developing nations.

IPS has two basic services: Spanish, which has a volume of about 30,000 words a day, and English, with about 20,000 words a day. There is a large degree of overlap between the two. Selections from these core services are translated by regional bureaus into Arabic, Dutch, French, German, Norwegian, Portuguese and Swedish.

About 70 percent of the news distributed by IPS is produced by its own correspondents and stringers. In addition, IPS has contracts with several national news agencies in the Third World to distribute their materials, unaltered, to IPS clients. Such items carry the credit line of the contributing agency. The agency also carries several special services, including two that focus on the role of women in the developing world.

The IPS services are characterized by an emphasis on news about the Third World, and the Third World in relation to the industrialized West. Little attempt is made to compete with the major transnational agencies in coverage of spot news. Instead IPS provides a kind of

daily news feature service, focusing on such themes as the needs of people in developing countries and efforts to satisfy them; attempts to transform socio-economic structures to make them more democratic, and regional cooperation in such fields as economics and technology. IPS bureaus in developed nations concentrate on developments there that have a bearing on the Third World. The agency seeks to cover "actors" who normally are not considered newsworthy, including rural workers, women, and church and labor organizations.

By the budgetary standards of the Big Four agencies, IPS is a shoestring operation. It has no wealthy national base to finance its foreign operations. The countries it has traditionally served have few privately-owned media that can afford substantial subscriptions. The agency's total budget for 1981 amounted to less than \$5 million. Of this, about a third derived from the sale of news and other services to national news agencies or direct to media subscribers. Another third came from contracts with national agencies for carrier and distribution services. Contracts with several United Nations agencies to provide coverage of their activities, with various organizations for special projects, and with non-media clients for subscriptions and services, accounted for about 10 percent each. IPS finds itself squeezed between the powerful commercial agencies on the one hand, and government and inter-governmental initiatives to promote news flow on the other.

One reason for the agency's precarious financial position is that IPS has a definite philosophical perspective. To the developing countries, IPS represents a strong protagonist of the New International Economic Order, and its linkage with the New International Information Order. It is perceived as supporting the more "progressive" movements in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, while opposing right-wing governments. To Westerners, IPS argues that its focus on the Third World does not mean that it is biased against the West, and that its news services are every bit as objective as those of the major agencies, differing only in the topics and themes they emphasize.

Efforts by IPS to market its news in Western nations have, however, been hindered by hostility towards the agency in some media quarters. As the most visible attempt to implement the principles of a New International Information Order, IPS has come under attack for both ideological and commercial reasons. The ideological criticisms relate to IPS's association with UNESCO, with national news agencies of some authoritarian countries, and with national liberation movements. On the other hand, IPS is seen by some Western agencies as a potential competitor whose activities conceivably could lead to cancellation of their contracts with Third World countries, and to denial of access by their correspondents to those countries.

This study, then, is intended to determine whether IPS is in fact providing "new information" for a "new order" -- that is an alternative kind of news and more horizontal information flow. Conversely, the study seeks to determine whether IPS copy is really biased against the interests of Western nations.

CONTENT ANALYSIS

The two IPS networks, English and Spanish, were analysed separately, because although there is a large degree of overlap between the two, they serve different regions of the world and draw much of their news from different sources. A further distinction was made between the reports prepared by IPS correspondents and the material carried on the networks under contract to various national agencies and research institutes. This distinction makes possible comparison of the output of IPS, as an independent agency, with that of the national agencies, most of which are government-controlled. Since many subscribers receive both kinds of news, however, figures are also given for the totality of each service. These appear in the tables under the heading "both". Where material from IPS correspondents only is meant, it is referred to as the English or Spanish "service." The combined output of IPS and national agency material is referred to as the English or Spanish "network."

The analysis is based on IPS copy for the month of October, 1982. Even as the analysis was proceeding, however, the agency was changing. New bureaus were being opened in Africa and Asia, and its operations in Europe and North America were expanding. At best then, the data offer an insight into IPS content at a particular moment in time, and can be used as a benchmark for further studies as it develops.

Research Questions

The analysis is intended to address the following research questions:

1. The news sources, geography, topics, themes and actors of the two networks;
2. The extent to which the two IPS wires were similar or different, and the ways in which they differed from the services of other agencies, as measured by previous studies.
3. Whether IPS was in fact covering those Third World developmental issues it claims to be covering; and, conversely, whether its news reports were "biased against the West" as claimed by some critics;
4. Whether contracts IPS had with United Nations agencies appeared to influence the quantity and direction of its coverage of their activities.

Previous studies of IPS

There have been several content analyses of IPS's services over the past few years. The agency has its own research and monitoring unit that undertakes regular analyses of the content of IPS wires and of material distributed by IPS for national agencies. There also have been at least three independent studies of IPS content by academic researchers since 1977.

One of the earlier reports was done by Renny Jokelin for the Institute of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Tampere.² Jokelin analysed three days of the Spanish service in May, 1977. He looked at the sources of the file, at its "news geography," and at the content in five broad categories. A more detailed study of the Spanish service was undertaken about 18 months later by Jaques van Aernsbergen, Hans van de Veen and Clement Tonnaer of the University of Nijmegen. It was supervised by Dr. Cees Hamelink of the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague.³ As part of a comprehensive report on IPS, they analysed the complete Spanish service for four consecutive days in September, 1978. A third analysis of the IPS Spanish service was conducted by Dr. Albert Hester of the University of Georgia.⁴ Hester analysed 297 news reports from a seven-day period in May, 1979. More recent data available are from an internal content analysis prepared by the IPS research unit. It covered items transmitted by both the Spanish and English services for the month of February, 1982. Only reports from IPS correspondents were included. The findings of these analyses are summarized in Tables 3 and 4.

Method of the Present Study

The study reported here used a standard content analysis protocol devised for a multi-national survey of foreign news conducted by the International Association for Mass Communications Research in 1980.⁵ The scheme was developed mainly by Paul Hartman of the University of Leicester, based on a pilot scheme worked out by Markku Salomaa and Kaarle Nordenstreng at the University of Tampere in Finland. Use of this instrument makes the data comparable to studies of other wire services conducted by scholars at Indiana University and at the University of North Carolina,⁶ and to a study of the AP and UPI wires to Asia made previously by the present author.⁷ Additional categories were created to test hypotheses relevant specifically to the IPS services.

Samples

The study used IPS English and Spanish material transmitted during the month of October, 1982. It includes reports carried by the networks for contracting national agencies. For the English network, the sample comprised the entire file for even-numbered dates throughout the month. This yielded a sample of 12 days, or the equivalent of two constructed weeks, since the agency did not transmit on Sundays. Altogether 458 reports were coded.

For the Spanish network, the sample consisted of a six-day constructed week, selected at random from odd-numbered dates to avoid overlap with the English sample. Because the volume of the Spanish network was greater than that of the English network, not all reports on the days selected were coded. Even-numbered reports were selected for half the days; odd numbered reports for the remainder. Altogether 392 reports were examined.

Categories

The reports were coded for more than 110 variables. The included the length, location of the event, and the topics and themes covered. Each report was coded as having one main topic and up to three subsidiary topics. The topics and themes included international and domestic politics, military and defense issues, economic matters, social services, culture and religion, student matters and ecology.

The main actor, and up to three subsidiary actors, were coded according to their nationality and the capacity in which they appeared, or their sphere of activity. Actors could be individuals or institutions.

Constructed Variables

The 78 countries represented in the reports analyzed were categorized by level of development and by geographical region. In order to ensure comparability with benchmark studies of other agencies conducted by Richard Cole, Donald Shaw and Robert Stevenson of the University of North Carolina, and by David Weaver and Cleveland Wilhoit at Indiana University,⁸ the same criteria were used to assign countries to specific categories. Thus the more developed nations include countries in Western and Eastern Europe, North America, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The less developed countries comprise those in Africa (except South Africa), Asia (except Japan), and Central and South America. Also included in this group are Israel and Turkey (following the benchmark studies) because of their concern with developmental issues.

The countries were further categorized into eight regions: Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America, Oceania and Western Europe.

Coder Reliability

The reports were coded by graduate and senior students at the University of Washington in Seattle. Twenty reports from the English file were chosen at random and processed by all six coders. For such straightforward choices as location of the report, and the contributing agency, reliability approached 100 percent. For more complex judgements on themes and topics the agreement was about 70 percent. In some categories where the choice was more subjective -- such as whether a report was primarily event oriented or process oriented when both elements were present -- inter-coder reliability fell to about 60 percent. The principal investigator, however, checked each coder's output and revised it to ensure uniformity of interpretation.

FINDINGS

News Sources

About three-quarters (72 percent) of the English network file was written by IPS correspondents (Table 5). On the Spanish service the figure was 57 percent. Most of the remainder came from national news agency material carried on the IPS networks. Middle Eastern agencies provided the bulk of the national agency material on the English network. Libya, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Palestine between them accounted for about 20 percent of the English file. The national agencies of Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Tunisia also had fairly substantial representation.

The Spanish wire carried a high proportion of national agency material from Latin American countries -- about 25 percent of the file. Venezuela, Mexico, Nicaragua, Cuba, Bolivia and Colombia all contributed notable quantities of news.

There was very little overlap between the national agency material carried on the English and Spanish networks. News filed from the Middle East, Africa and Asia in English was not translated for the Spanish network to any great extent. No Spanish-language national agency figured in the top 10 sources on the English network.

Location of Reports

The contention by IPS that it focuses on news of the developing world was borne out by the finding that 84 percent of the news carried on the English network, and 74 percent of the news on the Spanish network, was sourced in the Third World (Table 6A). This is a far higher proportion than was found even in the Third World regional wires of the major international agencies. Giffard's study of the AP and UPI wires to Asia in 1980 showed that the two averaged 35 percent of news from the developing nations -- including Asia.⁹ The Indiana/North Carolina study of the AP and UPI wires to Latin America found that they carried about 55 percent of reports from the Third World.¹⁰

The IPS English Service -- excluding the national agency material -- had a stronger Third World focus (78 percent) than the equivalent Spanish Service (64 percent). The English service also had more countries represented (48) than the Spanish Service with 27. If one considers the totality of both services, however -- that is IPS copy plus the national news agency material -- the difference is smaller. The English network had 65 countries represented; the Spanish network had 57. Between them they covered 78 countries. This was rather fewer than the 101 countries covered by the AP and UPI Asia wire service sample in 1980; and the 91 countries covered by AP and UPI regional wires to the United States in 1979.¹¹

Measured a different way, the IPS orientation to the Third World emerged even more clearly. As Table 6B shows, of all the reports carried on the English network, irrespective of filing location, only 6 percent deal with industrialized countries alone. Nearly half the

reports (48 percent) dealt with developing countries alone, and the remaining 45 percent concerned relations between developed and developing countries. Thus more than 90 percent could be said to have a Third World focus. The Spanish network had an even higher proportion (52 percent) devoted to developing countries alone.

Regional distribution

A breakdown of coverage by geographical region showed that IPS still had its deepest roots in Latin America. The Spanish Service drew more than 60 percent of its reports from that region alone (Table 7). Even the English Service drew about half its reports from Latin America -- although this figure included a large proportion of reports from the English-speaking Caribbean that did not appear on the Spanish Service. The Latin American influence on the English network was diluted by the contributions of national agencies, only 8 percent of which were sourced in that region. As a result, for the English network as a whole, the Latin American reports comprised about 40 percent of the total. Since most of the national agencies carried by the Spanish wire were based in Central and South America, the total for that network remained at more than 60 percent.

The English Service was far more balanced in its geographical representation than the Spanish. Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe each accounted for between 8 and 13 percent of its reports. The United Nations system contributed another 12 percent. On the Spanish wire, the historical tradition of an information bridge between Europe and Latin America was still evident. About 32 percent of the IPS Spanish Service originated in Europe. Together with the 63 percent from Latin America, that represented 95 percent of the total. Even if the national agencies are included, some 83 percent of the news was from those two regions alone, with the rest each contributing 4 percent or less.

There is little overlap between the top five news locations for the two services. The top three locations for the English wire -- the United Nations, Jamaica and the United States -- each accounted for less than 3 percent of the Spanish file. Conversely the top three on the Spanish list -- Italy, Venezuela and West Germany -- were almost invisible on the English wire. Only Chile made the top five on both services.

The disparities reflected the different markets served by the two wires; their different sources of news; contractual obligations; and the limitations of the agency's translation capabilities. Thus the strong representation of the United Nations, Jamaica and the United States on the English Service was not mirrored in the Spanish, partly because all those bureaus filed their copy in English, and only a small proportion was translated into Spanish. The high proportion of Italian news on the Spanish wire could be attributed in part to the agreement IPS had with the Italian government to distribute news about Italy in Latin America, as well as to the cultural affiliation between those regions. Little Italian news appeared on the English Service, where there was an editorial preference for Third World news. West

Germany ranked high on the Spanish network partly because the IPS correspondent in Bonn, a Chilean, files in Spanish.

Length of Reports

IPS aims to produce longer, more analytical and interpretive reports than its competitors. This contention that its reports are longer is supported by the data (Table 8). The average length of reports for the entire English network was about 300 words. Reports from IPS correspondents averaged about 370 words; the national agency reports were much shorter at 170 words on average. Reports on the Spanish wire were even longer. Those from IPS bureaus averaged 410 words, the national agencies reports had an average of 240 words, giving a combined average of 340 words per article. AP and UPI wires to Asia in 1980 averaged just over 200 words a story. One reason for the greater average length of IPS reports is that the agency did not carry numerous short news items common on the full-service agencies about such topics as currency exchange rates and sports scores.

Kinds of News

Reports were coded for one main topic and up to three subsidiary topics. For the purpose of this analysis all four were taken into account. Table 9 shows the percentage of reports that mention various topics, with figures for the IPS English and Spanish Services, and the national agency material carried on the two wires. Table 10 gives the aggregate figures for each wire (IPS plus national agencies), and for purposes of comparison, the equivalent figures for the composite AP/UPI Asia wire. Table 11 shows the proportion of news by category on IPS and other international wire services.

There were some marked differences between the topics covered by IPS correspondents and the national agency services the IPS wires carry. The national agencies, for example, gave more emphasis to news of political and diplomatic activity between states than did the IPS correspondents. Conversely, the national agencies tend to play down reports on domestic politics, and particularly internal conflict and crisis (Table 9).

Political News

On the IPS wires, as on the other major agencies, political news was by far the biggest category. Altogether 32 percent of the reports on the English network dealt with international or domestic political issues. The figure for the Spanish network was even higher at 39 percent. Where the IPS networks differed from the other wires was in the relative proportions of news devoted to international politics -- that is news of political or diplomatic activity between states -- and domestic political news. Both IPS services, in contrast to the other agencies, had more news of domestic politics -- elections, legislation or internal conflicts -- than international politics.

Social and Economic News

The IPS wires also were proportionately strong in coverage of economic matters, especially such developmental issues as trade agreements, and industrial or agricultural projects. The IPS networks likewise had a considerably higher proportion of news relating to international aid programs than do the other agencies. Certain categories of news seldom covered in any depth by the major agencies, including such social services as health provision, housing and education, were proportionately better represented on the IPS wires. This was true also of such commonly neglected topics as culture, religion and science. On the other hand, in line with its declared policy, IPS has negligible coverage of sports events and showed little interest in natural disasters -- except in terms of disaster relief.

Themes

The files were coded for up to 33 different themes or references, analysis of which gives a more detailed picture of the content of the wires than the topics alone. There is a high degree of correlation between the rankings of themes on the IPS English and Spanish services, and between them and the national agency material they carry. In almost every instance the most frequent single theme is development of the Third World (Table 12). If the themes relating to human rights, religious freedom, freedom of speech and individual freedom are collapsed into a single "individual freedoms" theme, this takes second place on three of the lists, and heads the rankings for the Spanish Service. Other frequently occurring themes include aid to developing countries, economic self-sufficiency, terrorism, the gap between nations of the North and the South, political independence and democracy. This agenda shows some similarities to, but also some marked differences from, themes identified on a composite profile of eight major news services to different regions of the world:¹²

Composite IPS services	Composite of 8 major wires
1. Third World Development 2. Individual freedoms 3. Aid to development 4. Economic self-sufficiency 5. North-South divisions 6. Terrorism 7. Political independence	- Terrorism - Political independence - Individual freedoms - Religious/Ethnic antagonism - Energy - Third World development - Subversion

Four of the themes appear on both lists, but with the exception of a common emphasis on individual freedoms, their rank order differs. The IPS services tend to focus on developmental issues -- Third World development, aid to developing countries, and economic-self-sufficiency. The major wires have a somewhat stronger emphasis on conflict and strife: terrorism, religious and ethnic antagonism and subversion. The themes also illustrated the IPS concern with North-South rather than East-West issues.

Actors

Just as politics is the most common topic in IPS reports -- and in those from the other international agencies -- so political actors dominate the news stage (Table 13). This is particularly true of the IPS Spanish wire. Almost 55 percent of the reports filed by IPS correspondents in Spanish had as their main actor a state president, politician or diplomat. For the national agency material on the Spanish wire, the figure was no less than 67 percent. The English network had somewhat less emphasis on political actors: both the IPS copy and the national agency material featured political figures as the main actor in about 45 percent of their reports. In contrast, the composite AP/UPI wire to Asia had about 33 percent of main actors in this category, a figure similar to that for the AP and UPI wires to Latin America.¹³

There is one significant difference between the political actors featured in IPS reports and those in news from the major agencies, however. The majority of IPS actors are from the Third World. Whereas some 40 percent of the main actors in the AP/UPI Asia wire reports were from developing countries, in the case of the IPS services the figure was double that at 83 percent for the English network and 80 percent for the Spanish network. IPS in fact had a slightly higher percentage of Third World actors than reports sourced in the Third World, indicating that some of its reports from developed countries focused on the activities of Third World actors there.

There are other important differences. Within the overall IPS services, the national agency reports tended to have a higher proportion of heads of state as main actors than the IPS material. The national agencies had correspondingly fewer workers, trade unionists, pressure groups, academics, scientists, religious leaders and "ordinary people."

The rank ordering of the nationalities of main actors on the two main IPS services reflects their different priorities and differing sources of news. It shows also the greater regional diversity of the English wire as compared to the Spanish Service's focus on Latin America and Europe:

Rank Order of Nationalities of Main Actors

ENGLISH SERVICE		SPANISH SERVICE	
1.	United Nations	Colombia	
2.	Jamaica	Peru	
3.	United States	Mexico	
4.	Other inter-government	West Germany	
5.	El Salvador	Nicaragua	
6.	Sri Lanka	Bolivia	
7.	Nigeria	Italy	
8.	United Arab Emirates	United Nations	
9.	Chile/Honduras/India	Chile/Ecuador/Spain	

Process/Event orientation

Several additional categories, not used in the IAMCR studies, were used in this study to determine whether IPS is in fact accomplishing what it has set out to do, and conversely whether it does those things it stands accused of doing by its critics.

One additional category was intended to test the agency's claim that it emphasizes process-oriented rather than event-oriented news. Coder reliability for this category turned out to be lower than for others, because most reports had elements of both, and it was difficult to decide which was dominant.

Of reports produced by IPS correspondents on the English Service, 26 percent were identified as being primarily event-oriented, and 59 percent as process-oriented. The remaining 15 percent were coded as balanced. This ranking was reversed in the case of the national agency services on the English wire. Some 48 percent of the reports were coded as event-oriented, 40 percent as process-oriented, and 12 percent as balanced. IPS correspondents on the Spanish service also placed a heavier emphasis on process-oriented news.

Comparable figures for the the major agencies were not available.

Developmental themes

IPS has a policy of writing about topics and themes relating to the development of Third World communities. Categories were established to test for the presence or absence of three such themes:

1. Needs of Third World people and efforts to satisfy them. This would include reports about hunger and malnutrition; health and disease; housing and overcrowding; literacy and illiteracy; and cultural development.

2. Progress towards self-reliant development of the Third World and regional integration. This category included reports on economic progress, on use of resources, regional cooperation, technology, industrialization and technical cooperation.

3. Efforts to transform Third World socio-economic structures. This would include reports on land reform, rural development, educational reform, political reform, reform of ownership structures, and moves toward social equality and justice.

All these themes, and especially the first two, figured prominently in the IPS services (Table 14). More than a third of the reports on the English network related to needs of Third World people and efforts to satisfy them. The theme of progress toward self-reliant development likewise appeared in about a third of the reports (often in the same stories). About one-fifth of the English Service reports dealt with efforts to transform social, political and economic structures. On the Spanish Service, with its orientation towards Latin America where these issues are of great concern, the figures were even higher.

Orientation of reports

An attempt was made to gauge the orientation of IPS reports in respect of the United States, the Western nations generally, and the Soviet Union. Coders were asked to determine whether reports that dealt with relationships between developing and developed countries depicted the developed country as being sympathetic or antagonistic towards the developing country in question. Thus a report on disaster relief funds being channeled from the United States to a stricken developing country would be coded as "U.S. Positive." Criticism of the actions of a multi-national corporation in a Third World country would be coded as "West negative." Where no clear direction was evident, or the reports did not concern North-South relations, they were coded "neutral."

More than 80 percent of the reports turned out to be neutral (Table 15A). On the IPS English wire, about four percent portrayed the United States or the West generally in a positive light. Some 13 percent were critical of Western countries -- with most of the criticism being directed at the United States. The Spanish Service proved to be marginally less critical and more favorably inclined towards the West. Little or no attention, positive or negative, was paid to the Soviet Union by either service.

Further analysis of the reports coded as being critical towards the West showed that while the aggregate number of such reports on both services originated in a total of 37 different countries, or international organizations, more than half came from just eight sources. The United Nations, source of 11 percent of the critical reports, was at the top of the list. Second was the United States (10 percent), then Nicaragua (9 percent), the United Arab Emirates (6 percent), Colombia (6 percent), Switzerland (5 percent) and Mexico and Honduras with 4 percent each. No other country was responsible for more than 3 percent of the critical reports.

In the case of the United Nations reports, most were about debates in the General Assembly in which Western policies were criticised by Third World delegates. Many of the reports sourced in the United States had to do with that country's foreign policy towards the Third World, or policies toward the World Bank or International Monetary Fund. In both cases the reports were written by IPS correspondents. Most of the Nicaraguan and United Arab Emirates reports critical of the West came from their respective national news agencies.

Themes of reports critical of the West

Five content categories were set up to determine the nature of IPS reports coded as critical of the United States or of the West in general. The categories were based on criticisms of IPS content by some Western media figures. The categories were:

1. "Maldevelopment" in the West. This category could include reports on wasteful use of resources, social problems, crime, corruption and poverty amid plenty.

2. Differences of interest between Western countries on key issues. These could include such topics as energy, finance, trade, foreign policy, relations with the Soviet Bloc or the Third World, agricultural policy and trade barriers.

3. Solidarity campaigns by Northern pressure groups in favor of Third World interests. These could include such actions as Italian unions boycotting Chilean copper imports, or Swedish unions boycotting South African produce.

4. Campaigns by action groups to challenge the policies of transnational corporations in the developing world. These could include issues like the sale of infant formulas, dumping of dangerous drugs or pesticides in the Third World, or sea-bed mining.

5. Criticisms by Westerners of the policies of their own governments in general.

In most instances, such themes were found to occur in 4 percent or less of the items coded (Table 16). The scores for different categories cannot be aggregated because several critical themes may appear in a single report. The only instance where critical themes are more frequent is to be found in reports on the Spanish Service concerning differences between Western powers on key issues. This theme was present in 10 percent of the reports from IPS correspondents and 5 percent of the national agency material on the Spanish network. Many of these dealt with differences between European governments and the United States on its policies in Central America.

Criticism of Third World governments

While IPS has been accused of being "anti-West" in its coverage, it also is said to be reluctant to criticise governments of developing countries. To check this, reports were examined to see if they included criticism of the policies of Third World countries. The data suggest that IPS was rather more likely to criticise the Third World than the West (Table 15B). On the English Service, altogether 15 percent of the reports were coded as being critical of Third World governments or policies (13 percent were critical of the West), and because some 80 percent of all IPS reports related to the Third World, the absolute number would be considerably higher. On the Spanish Service, altogether 24 percent of the reports included some criticism of the Third World. Reports from IPS correspondents were twice as likely to be critical as those from the national agencies. The coding did not specify that the criticism should be of the government of the country in which the report was sourced -- it could be of other Third World countries.

Reports critical of the Third World on the composite IPS network originated in a total of 38 countries. Most of the heat was generated by Nicaragua and Honduras -- with much of the criticism being of each other, not of their own governments. Other sources accounting for more than five percent of the total included Argentina, Guatemala, Peru, the United States and the United Nations. The remaining 31 countries each were the source of 3 percent or less of the total.

Coverage of the United Nations

A final objective of the analysis was to determine whether contracts that IPS had with various agencies of the United Nations appeared to influence the quantity and direction of its coverage. Reports were coded to indicate whether they dealt with any UN organization, and if so which one. Those reports that did mention the UN were examined further to determine whether the coverage was positive, negative or neutral.

On the English Service, more than 80 percent of the reports did not refer to the UN at all (Table 17). In the case of the Spanish Service the figure was 92 percent. More than half of the coverage of the UN system by the English network was of the General Assembly -- for which coverage IPS does not have a contract. The rest was devoted to projects undertaken by UN agencies with which IPS does have contracts for news coverage. The reports were about evenly distributed among five contracting agencies: the FAO, HABITAT, the ILO, UNDP, UNESCO and UNHCR.

The Spanish network carried a similar proportion of news about the activities of contracting agencies (about 4 percent of the total file). But it carried only half as much news, proportionally, about the rest of the UN system, including the General Assembly. This may be due, in part, to the fact that the UN correspondent in New York files in English, as does the Geneva correspondent, who covers several UN agencies.

In the case of both wires the UN coverage, while only a small proportion of the total file, is greater than the proportion offered by the national agencies carried by IPS, or by the other international agencies.

Most of the coverage of the United Nations was coded as being neutral or balanced -- 90 percent in the case of the English Service, and 97 percent in the case of the Spanish (Table 18). Where there was a bias it was in the direction of positive coverage. The English service gave positive coverage to 8 percent of the news it carried about the UN system, and was negative about only 2 percent. The emphasis clearly was on achievements, rather than failures.

Summary

The data suggest that IPS is indeed providing a different kind of news service to that of the traditional agencies. Its claim to be a new source of Third World news is well justified. More than three-quarters of the news carried on the two networks was sourced in the developing nations, and deals with topics and actors of relevance to them. The large and growing proportion of news it carries from its own correspondents contradicts suggestions that it is merely engaged in distributing news from government-controlled national agencies.

The themes covered in its reports do indeed reflect the agency's priorities. Its reports are relatively long and detailed; they are rich in terms of the themes they cover; they focus on Third World developmental concerns. There is little to support allegations that

the service is biased against the West: far more of its news reports are critical of the shortcomings of the Third World. Although the proportion of national agency material carried on the networks is not high, it is substantial, and is in accord with the IPS philosophy of encouraging a pluralism of voices in international news exchange. In this respect IPS clearly is fulfilling its stated objectives.

The agency still had a long way to go, however, before it could claim to provide geographically balanced coverage of the developing world as a whole. The Spanish network in particular was essentially still a regional agency. The English network seemed more likely to develop into a geographically diverse service.

TABLE 1. The Inter Press Service International Network (1983)

Africa

Algiers	Algeria	TX	3
Brazzaville	Congo	TP	3
Dakar	Senegal	TX	1,2
Lagos	Nigeria	TP	1,2
Luanda	Angola	TX	4
Maputo	Mozambique	TX	4
Nairobi	Kenya	TP	1,2
Tripoli	Libya	TP	4
Tunis	Tunisia	TP	1,2

Arab states

Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emir.	TP	1,2
Baghdad	Iraq	TP	4
Beirut	Lebanon	TP	1,2
Doha	Qatar	TP	4
Jerusalem	Occupied territory	TX	1,2

Asia

Colombo	Sri Lanka	TP	1,2
Manila	Philippines	TX	3
New Delhi	India	TP	1,2

Europe

Belgrade	Yugoslavia	TP	4
Bonn	W. Germany	TP	1,2
Brussels	Belgium	TX	3
Bucharest	Romania	TP	4
Budapest	Hungary	TP	1,2
Geneva (UN)	Switzerland	TP	1,2
Lisbon	Portugal	TP	1,2
Madrid	Spain	TP	1,2
Moscow	U. S. S. R.	TX	3
Oslo	Norway	TP	1,2
Paris	France	TP	1,2
Rome	Italy	TP	1,2
Stockholm	Sweden	TP	1,2
The Hague	Netherlands	TP	3
Vienna	Austria	TP	3
Warsaw	Poland	TP	4

TABLE 1 (Contd.)

Latin America and Caribbean

Asuncion	Paraguay	TX	3
Bogata	Colombia	TP	1,2
Buenos Aires	Argentina	TX	1,2
Caracas	Venezuela	TP	1,2
Georgetown	Guyana	TP	1,2
Guatemala City	Guatemala	TP	1,2
Havana	Cuba	TP	1,2
Kingston	Jamaica	TP	1,2
La Paz	Bolivia	TP	1,2
Lima	Peru	TP	1,2
Managua	Nicaragua	TP	1,2
Mexico City	Mexico	TP	1,2
Montevideo	Uruguay	TX	1,3
Panama City	Panama	TP	1,2
Paramaribo	Suriname	TP	2
Quito	Ecuador	TP	1,2
Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	TP	1,2
St. Georges	Grenada	TP	1,2
San Jose	Costa Rica	TP	1,2
San Salvador	El Salvador	TX	3
Santiago	Chile	TP	1,2
Santo Domingo	Dominican Republic	TP	1,2
Tegucigalpa	Honduras	TP	1,2

North America

Montreal	Canada	TP	1,2
New York	U.S.A.	TP	1,2
New York	United Nations	TP	1,2
Washington	U.S.A.	TP	1,2

NOTES: TP Teleprinter link (via computer)
 TX Telex link (via computer)
 1 IPS bureau
 2 Full-time correspondent
 3 Part-time correspondent
 4 Link with national news agency only

TABLE 2. Third World and Non-Aligned News Agencies
Linked with IPS (1983)

ACI	Congo P.R.
AIM	Mozambique
ANA	Peru
ANGOP	Angola
ANN	Nicaragua
APS	Algeria
BOLPRESS	Bolivia
COLPRESS	Colombia
CRI	Costa Rica
DOMPRESS	Dominican Republic
GNA	Guyana
GNA	Grenada
INA	Iraq
JAMPRESS	Jamaica
JANA	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
LAKAPUVATH	Sri Lanka
NOTIMEX	Mexico
NAN	Nigeria
PANAPRESS	Panama
PRENSA LATINA	Cuba
PNA	Philippines
QNA	Qatar
RSS	Nepal
SENDIP	Ecuador
SNA	Suriname
TANJUG	Jugoslavia
TAP	Tunisia
VENPRESS	Venezuela
WAFA	Palestine
WAM	United Arab Emirates

TABLE 3

Summary of Content Analyses of IPS Services, 1977-1982

Researcher:	Jokelin	V. Bernsbergen	Hester	Harris	Harris
Date:	May '77	Sept '78	May '79	Feb '82	Feb '82
Service:	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	English
	n=230	n=335	n=297	n=1226	n=638
	x	x	x	x	x

Source:

IPS material	49	49	74
National agency	34	40	22
Pool (Tanjug)	17	10	4

Region:

Latin America	39	45	40	66	52
Mideast	31	16	8	4	11
Europe	18	22	33	20	5
Africa	10	9	9	3	7
Asia	2	1	1	1	8
North America	-	1	5	1	5
Other	1	3	1	-	14

Topic:

Politics	64	70	34	54	49
Economics	25	17	28	22	30
Culture/Science	6	3	4	3	3
Crime/disaster	2	-	6	-	-

Notes:

1. Content categories are not always directly comparable across studies;
2. All figures have been rounded off;
3. Reports originating from the UNCTAD conference have been excluded from the Hester study.

TABLE 4. Comparison of Thematic and Geographical Coverage
in IPS English and Spanish Casts

Source: IPS Research Division
Period: February, 1982

	Spanish service %	English service %
THEMATIC COVERAGE		
National politics	22	18
International politics	32	31
National economics	13	13
International economics	9	17
Labour/trade unions	4	3
Agriculture	2	2
Energy/petroleum	3	2
Culture/education	3	2
Information/communications	2	2
Population/society	5	6
Arms trade/disarmament	2	1
Environment	1	1
Show business	1	-
Other	2	2
Total	100	100
GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE		
Africa	3	7
Asia	1	8
Mideast	4	11
Caribbean	2	19
Central America	31	21
Latin America	33	12
Europe	19	3
North America	2	5
Global	6	14
Total	100	100

TABLE 5. News Agencies Represented on IPS Networks

ENGLISH NETWORK (n=458)			SPANISH NETWORK (n=392)		
Agency	Country	%	Agency	Country	%
IPS		72	IPS		57
JANA	Libya	4	VENPRESS	Venezuela	6
INA	Iraq	4	NOTIMEX	Mexico	6
WAM	United Arab Emirates	4	TANJUG	Yugoslavia	5
NAN	Nigeria	3	COLPISA	Spain	4
QNA	Qatar	3	ANN	Nicaragua	3
TAP	Tunisia	2	IFDA	Internatl.	3
LAKAPUVATH	Sri Lanka	2	P.L.	Cuba	3
WAFA	Palestine	1	BOLPRESS	Bolivia	2
IPS-TAP	Tunisia	>1	ILET	Mexico	2
IPS-JANA	Libya	>1	QNA	Qatar	2
APA	Austria	>1	COLPRESS	Colombia	2
GNA	Grenada	>1	ECUAPRESS	Ecuador	1
PNA	Philippines	>1	INA	Iraq	1
			JANA	Libya	1
			WAM	United Arab Emirates	1
			PANAPRESS	Panama	>1
			DOMPRESS	Dominican R	>1
			NAN	Nigeria	>1
			RSS	Nepal	>1

TABLE 6A. Countries where reports originated by level of development

	ENGLISH SERVICE			SPANISH SERVICE		
	IPS only (n=330) %	National agencies (n=128) %	Both (n=458) %	IPS only (n=221) %	National agencies (n=171) %	Both (n=392) %
Less developed	78	80	79	66	84	74
More developed	22	20	21	34	16	26

TABLE 6B. Countries dealt with in reports by level of development

	%	%	%	%	%	%
Developed countries only	6	5	6	19	3	11
Developed and developing countries	47	40	45	37	33	35
Developing countries only	46	54	48	43	63	52

TABLE 7. News Geography by Region

	ENGLISH SERVICE			SPANISH SERVICE		
	IPS only (n=330) %	National agencies (n=128) %	Both (n=458) %	IPS only (n=221) %	National agencies (n=171) %	Both (n=392) %
Africa	9	23	13	1	5	3
Asia	6	14	8	0	5	2
Eastern Europe	0	3	1	0	5	2
Latin America	51	8	39	63	61	62
Middle East	1	28	8	0	8	4
North America	12	7	11	2	3	2
Oceania	1	0	1	0	1	1
Western Europe	8	9	8	32	8	21
Inter-Governmental (e.g. United Nations)	12	9	11	2	5	3

TABLE 8. Average Length of Reports in Words

ENGLISH SERVICE			SPANISH SERVICE		
IPS only (n=330)	National agencies (n=128)	Both (n=458)	IPS only (n=221)	National agencies (n=171)	Both (n=392)
370	170	300	410	240	340

TABLE 9. Percentage of Reports That Refer to Specific Topics

	ENGLISH SERVICE		SPANISH SERVICE	
	IPS only %	National services %	IPS only %	National services %
Politics				
Diplomatic/political activity between states	35	46	32	51
Internal conflict or crisis	28	9	23	8
Elections, campaigns, appointments, government changes	16	12	24	17
Other political including legislation	11	11	30	29
Military and Defense				
Armed conflict or threat of	19	24	16	11
Peace moves, negotiations, settlements	11	15	5	14
Other, including arms deals weapons, bases, exercises	8	4	4	2
Economic Matters				
Agreements on trade, tariffs, etc.	9	4	4	3
Other international trade, imports, exports	15	6	9	8
Capital investment, stock issues (not aid)	6	8	7	6
Stock exchange, share prices, dividends	0	1	1	1
Other economic performance, output, growth, etc.	2	3	14	10
Prices, cost of living, inflation, etc.	7	3	8	9
Industrial projects, factories, dams, ports	7	5	6	7

TABLE 9, (Contd.)

Agricultural matters, projects, crops, harvests, etc.	12	3	5	5
Industrial/labor relations disputes, talks, wages	8	2	6	0
Monetary questions, exchange rates, money supply	5	6	6	6
Other economic	3	2	16	9
<u>International Aid</u>				
Disaster or famine relief	4	2	2	1
Aid for economic purposes (e.g., industrial development)	13	6	7	6
Military aid, weapons, advisors, training	5	5	3	2
Other aid (e.g., education, family planning)	3	2	1	2
<u>Social Services</u>				
Social problems generally (health, housing, illiteracy)	11	3	4	5
Educational provision	4	8	1	8
Health provision (not family planning)	5	2	1	2
Family planning	2	1	1	0
Other social services and social welfare	3	1	1	1
<u>Crime, Police, Judicial</u>				
<u>Legal, Penal</u>				
Non-political crime, police judicial, and penal activity	3	3	5	2
Political crime	10	8	13	3
Non-criminal legal and court proceedings	0	0	1	1
<u>Culture, Arts, Archaeology</u>	3	1	14	14

TABLE 9 (Contd.)

<u>Religion</u>	2	2	3	2
<u>Scientific, Technical, Medical</u>	7	5	3	7
<u>Sports</u>				
International	1	0	0	2
Non-International	0	1	0	0
<u>Entertainment, Show Business (except personal- ities</u>	1	0	1	0
<u>Personalities (not politicians)</u>				
Sports	0	1	0	1
Entertainers	0	0	2	1
Others	1	1	14	8
<u>Human Interest, Odd Happenings, Animals, Sex, etc.</u>	3	2	8	5
<u>Student Matters</u>	0	1	1	1
<u>Ecology</u>				
Energy conservation	3	2	1	2
Pollution	1	0	0	1
Other	3	0	2	2
<u>Natural Disasters</u>	1	0	2	1

TABLE 10. Percentage of Reports That Refer to Specific Topics

	IPS English Service %	IPS Spanish Service %	AP and UPI Asia Wires %
<u>Politics</u>			
Diplomatic/political activity between states	38	40	25
Internal conflict or crisis	22	16	14
Elections, campaigns, appointments, government changes	15	21	7
Other political including legislation	11	30	3
<u>Military and Defense</u>			
Armed conflict or threat of	20	14	12
Peace moves, negotiations, settlements	12	9	6
Other, including arms deals weapons, bases, exercises	6	3	4
<u>Economic Matters</u>			
Agreements on trade, tariffs, etc.	8	4	3
Other international trade, imports, exports	11	8	5
Capital investment, stock issues (not aid)	6	7	2
Stock exchange, share prices, dividends	0	0	8
Other economic performance, output, growth, etc.	3	13	3
Prices, cost of living, inflation, etc.	5	8	4
Industrial projects, factories, dams, ports	6	7	2
Agricultural matters, projects, crops, harvests, etc.	8	5	2

TABLE 10 (Contd.)

Industrial/labor relations disputes, talks, wages	6	3	2
Monetary questions, exchange rates, money supply	5	6	6
Other economic	3	13	2
<u>International Aid</u>			
Disaster or famine relief	3	2	2
Aid for economic purposes (e.g., industrial development)	12	6	2
Military aid, weapons, advisors, training	5	2	1
Other aid (e.g., education, family planning)	2	2	1
<u>Social Services</u>			
Social problems generally (health, housing, illiteracy)	9	4	1
Educational provision	5	0	1
Health provision (not family planning)	4	0	1
Family planning	2	0	0
Other social services and social welfare	3	0	1
<u>Crime, Police, Judicial, Legal, Penal</u>			
Non-political crime, police judicial, and penal activity	3	3	3
Political crime	9	8	5
Non-criminal legal and court proceedings	0	1	1
<u>Culture, Arts, Archaeology</u>	3	14	2
<u>Religion</u>	2	3	3
<u>Scientific, Technical, Medical</u>	7	5	6

TABLE 10 (Contd.)

Sports

International	1	1	6
Non-International	0	0	11

Entertainment, Show Business (except personalities)	1	1	11
---	---	---	----

Personalities (not politicians)

Sports	0	1	9
Entertainers	0	1	11
Others	1	11	2

Human Interest, Odd Happenings, Animals, Sex, etc.	2	7	7
--	---	---	---

Student Matters	2	5	11
-----------------	---	---	----

Ecology

Energy conservation	3	1	1
Pollution	0	1	1
Other	2	1	11

Natural Disasters	0	1	2
-------------------	---	---	---

TABLE 11. Topics in International News

Agency:	IPS English	IPS Spanish	AP/UPI to Asia	AP to L. Am.	Reuter to M. East	AFP to Africa
Number of reports:	458	392	879	2,250	346	944
Topics	%	%	%	%	%	%
International politics	14	13	14	21	35	32
Domestic politics	18	26	13	12	18	16
Military/defense	14	9	12	3	25	11
Economic matters	23	24	22	18	7	15

TABLE 11 (Contd.)

International aid	8	4	3	1	1	2
Social services	9	2	1	1	0	1
Crime/legal	5	4	4	8	7	8
Culture	2	3	1	1	1	1
Religion	1	1	2	1	1	0
Scientific/medical	3	3	3	1	0	1
Sports	0	0	10	19	0	5
Entertainment	0	1	0	1	1	0
Personalities	1	4	7	1	0	0
Human interest	1	2	4	1	0	1
Student matters	1	2	1	1	0	1
Ecology	2	1	1	1	0	0
Natural disasters	0	1	1	6	5	2
Other				4	0	3

Notes on Table 11:

1. Data for AP to Latin America, Reuter to the Middle East and AFP to Africa are from David Weaver, et. al., The News of the World in Four Major Wire Services.
2. The data for the composite AP/UPI wire to Asia do not include reports on results of Olympic Games events in Moscow, which tended to skew the usual figures for sports news and sports personalities.

TABLE 12. Most Frequently Mentioned Themes

ENGLISH SERVICE

<u>IPS only</u> (n=330)	<u>National agencies</u> (n=128)	<u>Both</u> (n=458)
1. Third World Developmt	Third World Developmt	Third World Devel.
2. Development aid	Individual freedoms	Development aid
3. Individual freedoms	Political independence	Individual freedom
4. Economic self-suffic.	Development aid	Econ. self-suff.
5. North-South divisions	Relig/ethnic antag.	N-S divisions
6. Terrorism	North-South divisions	Terrorism
7. Democracy	Economic self-suffic.	Political indep.
8. Social equality	Terrorism	Democracy
9. Subversion	Racism	Social equality
10. Energy	Subversion	Subversion

SPANISH SERVICE

<u>IPS only</u> (n=221)	<u>National agencies</u> (n=171)	<u>Both</u> (n=392)
1. Individual freedoms	Third World Development	Third World Devel.
2. Third World developmnt	North-South divisions	Individual freedom
3. North-South divisions	Economic self-suffic.	N-S divisions
4. Terrorism	Individual freedoms	Econ. self-suff.
5. Economic self-suffic.	Development aid	Terrorism
6. Socialism	Political independence	Development aid
7. Democracy	Energy	Political indep.
8. Subversion	East-West divisions	Socialism
9. Development aid	Terrorism	Democracy
10. Political independence	Social equality	Subversion

TABLE 13. Position/sphere of Main Actors

	ENGLISH SERVICE			SPANISH SERVICE		
	IPS only (n=330) %	National agencies (n=128) %	Both (n=458) %	IPS only (n=221) %	National agencies (n=171) %	Both (n=392) %
Chief executive/prime minister/president	28	32	29	29	48	37
Other leading govt.	3	-	2	8	8	8
Non-legitimate political opposition	2	2	2	2	1	1
Other legitimate government	5	3	4	9	2	6
Local govt. official	-	-	-	1	1	1
Diplomat/ambassador	8	7	7	5	7	6
Regular military	4	5	4	5	1	3
Irregular military	2	2	2	3	1	2
Industry	5	5	5	5	4	5
Trade unions/workers	3	2	3	5	1	3
Pressure group	3	1	2	1	1	1
Religious	4	-	3	1	1	1
Sports	1	1	1	-	1	>1
Media	2	10	4	3	3	3
Academic/educational/scientific	5	8	6	12	7	10
Police	1	1	1	1	1	1
Judiciary/lawyers	1	-	>1	1	-	>1
Criminals/prisoners	-	2	1	3	1	2
Celebrities/show business	-	-	-	1	2	1
Aristocracy/royalty	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE 13 (Contd.)

Nation(s)	8	3	7	1	1	1
United Nations/ UN agencies	6	5	6	1	3	1
Other inter-govt organizations	6	7	6	2	8	4
Ordinary people/ citizens	5	2	4	1	-	1
No human actor	2	2	2	2	2	2

TABLE 14 Themes Supportive of Third World Development

	ENGLISH SERVICE			SPANISH SERVICE		
	IPS only (n=330) %	National agencies (n=128) %	Both (n=458) %	IPS only (n=221) %	National agencies (n=171) %	Both (n=392) %
Needs of Third World People and Efforts to Satisfy Them:						
Present	38	23	34	43	52	47
Absent	62	77	66	57	48	53
Progress Towards Self-Reliant Development in Third World:						
Present	32	39	34	25	47	35
Absent	68	61	66	75	53	65
Efforts to Transform Third World Socio-Economic Structures:						
Present	20	18	20	30	34	32
Absent	80	82	80	70	66	68

TABLE 15A. Orientation of Reports Toward Developed World

	ENGLISH SERVICE			SPANISH SERVICE		
	IPS only (n=330) %	National agencies (n=128) %	Both (n=458) %	IPS only (n=221) %	National agencies (n=171) %	Both (n=392) %
Neutral	80	81	81	83	81	82
U.S. positive	2	0	2	1	2	2
U.S. negative	10	11	10	7	5	6
West positive (excl. U.S.)	2	3	2	4	4	4
West negative (excl. U.S.)	3	4	4	4	7	5
U.S.S.R. positive	1	0	1	1	1	1
U.S.S.R. negative	2	0	1	0	0	0

TABLE 15B. Orientation of Reports Towards Third World

	ENGLISH SERVICE			SPANISH SERVICE		
	IPS only (n=330) %	National agencies (n=128) %	Both (n=458) %	IPS only (n=221) %	National agencies (n=171) %	Both (n=392) %
Critical of Third World Governments	15	8	13	24	9	17
Not Critical	85	92	87	76	91	83

TABLE 16. Themes Critical of Western Countries

	ENGLISH SERVICE			SPANISH SERVICE		
	IPS only (n=330) %	National agencies (n=128) %	Both (n=458) %	IPS only (n=221) %	National agencies (n=171) %	Both (n=392) %
"Maldevelopment" in Western Nations:						
Present	4	2	3	4	2	3
Absent	96	98	97	96	98	97
Differences Between Western Governments on Key Issues:						
Present	4	2	3	10	5	8
Absent	94	98	97	90	95	92
Solidarity Campaigns by Northerners in Support of Third World Countries:						
Present	2	0	1	3	1	2
Absent	98	100	99	97	99	98
Campaigns by Westerners to Challenge Policies of Their Governments on Third World Issues:						
Present	2	0	1	3	1	2
Absent	98	100	99	97	99	98
Criticisms by Westerners of Their Own Governments:						
Present	2	0	1	3	1	2
Absent	98	100	99	97	99	98

TABLE 17. Coverage of United Nations System

	ENGLISH SERVICE			SPANISH SERVICE		
	IPS only (n=330) %	National agencies (n=128) %	Both (n=458) %	IPS only (n=221) %	National agencies (n=171) %	Both (n=392) %
FAD	2	1	2	2	1	1
HABITAT	1	0	>1	1	0	1
ILO	1	0	>1	0	0	0
UNDP	1	1	1	0	1	1
UNESCO	1	0	0	1	0	1
UNHCR	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other UN (including General Assembly)	11	9	10	5	6	5
No UN Agency	83	89	85	92	92	92

TABLE 18. Manner in Which United Nations System is Covered

	ENGLISH SERVICE			SPANISH SERVICE		
	IPS only (n=330) %	National agencies (n=128) %	Both (n=458) %	IPS only (n=221) %	National agencies (n=171) %	Both (n=392) %
Neutral or balanced	90	96	92	97	95	96
Unqualified positive	3	2	3	1	5	3
Qualified positive	5	2	4	1	1	1
Unqualified negative	1	0	>1	1	0	>1
Qualified negative	1	1	1	1	0	>1

FOOTNOTES

1

This study is part of a larger report on Inter Press Service prepared by the author. The report was commissioned by the International Association for Mass Communications Research. The International Communications Center at the University of Washington assisted in funding the content analysis.

2

Jenny Jokelin, Alternative News: a Case Study of Inter Press Service (University of Tampere, 1978).

3

Jacques van Aernsbergen, et. al., News From the Third World (University of Nijmegen, 1979).

4

Albert Hester, "Inter Press Service: News for and About the Third World"

5

Annabelle Sreberny-Mohammadi, et. al., The World of the News: the News of the World (IAMCR, Leicester, 1980).

6

David H. Weaver, G. Cleveland Wilhoit, Robert L. Stevenson, Donald L. Shaw and Richard Cole, "The News of the World in Four Major Wire Services," in Sreberny-Mohammadi, op. cit.

7

C. Anthony Giffard, "Coverage of Developed and Developing Nations in American Wire Services of Asia," paper delivered at the Association for Education in Journalism convention, Athens, Ohio, 1982.

8

Weaver, et. al., op. cit.

9

Giffard, op. cit.

10

Weaver, op. cit.

11

Ibid.

12

Ibid.

13

Ibid.